

**WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2006**  
**Indiana State Government Center**  
**Indianapolis, IN**

<b>Voting Members Present:</b> Cass County – Mercedes Brugh DNR – Steve Morris Knox County – Shane Cooper Miami County – Ken Einselen Parke County – Steve Luther Posey County – Ralph Weinzapfel Sullivan County – John Gettinger Tippecanoe County – Norman (Lucky) Neiburger Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate) Vermillion County – James McFall Vermillion County - Diane McIntosh (alternate)	<b>Proxies</b> Paul McAfee – Aaron Wartenberg Louise Jewell – John Gettinger Mike Mettler – John Gettinger Keith Huffman – John Gettinger  <b>Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy:</b> Adams County Carroll County Fountain County Gibson County Jay County Wabash County
<b>Non-Voting Members Present:</b> Indiana Office of Tourism – Brian Blackford	<b>Non-Voting Members Not Present</b> IDEM INDOT DNR-DHPA
<b>Commission and DNR Staff Present:</b> Ron James – WRHCC Executive Director Karen Hanes – DNR Outdoor Recreation	<b>Guests Present:</b> Homer Twigg IV – Wabash College Clayton Craig – Wabash College Mike Bachner – Wabash College Jim Perron – BCR Consultants, Inc. Marianna Weinzapfel Jack Kassenbrock Stan Lambert – Wabash River Enhancement Corporation Kim Wilson – Purdue University

**CALL TO ORDER**

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. John asked everyone to introduce themselves and the county they represent.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the lack of a quorum, the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes will be approved at the January 2007 meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

John Gettinger distributed a report detailing his activities related to the commission in September and October. John reported that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade water trip in Sullivan County was a lot of fun for the children and adults. They were able to raise \$7,000 in donations to holding the event. John stated they had about 100 students each day and that Senator Waterman also participated.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ron James referred to the executive director's report that was mailed with the meeting agenda. Ron reported he had attended several Water Trail openings along the Wabash. Ron also stated there has been a lot of support in the art community for the River Odyssey exhibitions. Ron reminded commission members that a portion of the proceeds of the auction in August of 2007 will be given to the commission. Ron reported he also met with the people involved in the Tippecanoe Trail activity.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Jim Perron, of BCR Consultants, Inc. thanked the commission for giving him the opportunity to speak. Jim explained the Indiana Brownfield's, which is a nationally recognized program. Jim also explained the process of obtaining funding for a brownfield project.

Homer Twigg of Wabash College reported on a summer research trip he and two other students conducted along most of the length of the Wabash River in Indiana. Homer had the following recommendations for how to improve the water trail.

1. Some aspects of an atlas would be beneficial to include in water trail maps.
2. They encountered overwhelming support by the private community along the Wabash River and feel they are an untapped resource.
3. A listing of all the unofficial launch sites along the river would be helpful.
4. Signs on the bridges to gauge where you are on the river would also be helpful.

Kim Wilson from Purdue University informed the commission about the Living Laboratory on the Wabash (LLOW) Project. The short-term goal of the LLOW Project is to establish a 'living laboratory' that embraces discovery, learning, and engagement. The long-term goal of the LLOW Project is to re-establish the Wabash River as a healthy major river that provides quality recreation and economic value to the state. They will be applying for various grants to implement the project.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** - Steve Morris of DNR distributed a commission financial report. Other than executive director services, the biggest expense so far has been for copies of the water trail maps.

**Water Trail** - Ron James reported there are two maps yet to complete and that he will be getting bids on printing.

Ken Einselen discussed bridge signs for water trail users. Signs need to 16" to 18" tall and 5' wide. We would need 25-50 signs at about \$60-\$70 each.

Shane Cooper asked how to approach getting signs placed on bridges maintained by INDOT. Mercedes Brugh commented that John Leckie with INDOT had not gotten a response for the commission yet. Steve Morris recommended the commission pursue having Ray Irvin, INDOT Director of Greenways and Bikeways, appointed to serve as INDOT's representative to the commission.

Mercedes Brugh reported that the water trail grand opening in Cass County was a great event.

Education - John Gettinger reported he will continue to pursue use of the recent WFYI Wabash River film documentary to create lesson plans for students. John was hopeful this could be created in 3 to 6 months.

**Indiana River Rally** - Ron James reported the River Rally will be held on June 7- 9, 2007. Ron stated he has attended 3-4 planning meetings for this premier event. John Gettinger suggested the commission arrange a social meeting during the River Rally. The commission will discuss further at the next meeting.

**Legislative** - Mercedes Brugh reminded the commission how important it was to meet with the legislators in the counties along the Wabash if the commission hoped to get additional funding. Mercedes went over what was included in their legislative packets and encouraged the commission members to try and get a 15-20 minute meeting scheduled with their legislators before the session begins. Ron James will send all the commission members an updated legislative packet.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**River Odyssey** - Ron James reported there has been good attendance at the exhibit openings.

**Sagamore Nomination Procedure** - Ron James stated he had found the process for submitting a nomination for the Sagamore of the Wabash award. The governor plans to only award 1 to 2 Sagamore winners each year. Instead, Ron submitted a nomination for a Person of Distinction art award for David Dale and Jim Faulkner, the River Odyssey artists.

**Logo Embroidery** - Ron James brought samples of logos. The commission will attempt to have blue button-down shirts by the River Rally in June, 2007.

**National Heritage Area Letter** – Ron James reported having sent a letter to U.S. Congressional representatives regarding the proposed National Heritage Area initiative for the combined Wabash and Maumee River corridors.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee** - Ralph Weinzapfel will serve as chair and Norman (Lucky) Neiberger will serve on the committee.

### **2007 Meeting Locations**

May 9, Wabash

June, social meeting at the River Rally

July 11, Clinton

September 12, Knox County.

**Reflections:** Commission members from Vermillion, Jay, and/or Adams Counties, as well as Steve M. (re: DNR Trails Plan) shall submit articles.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

The next meeting will be held January 10, 2007 in Indianapolis, Indiana in the Teleconference Media Center at the Indiana Government Center South